

Town of Acton SIDEWALK COMMITTEE

**June 13, 2012
Acton Memorial Library:
Conference Room, 2nd Floor
7:00 pm.**

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MEETING Minutes

Present: Bettina Abe, Kate Chung, Dana Snyder-Grant, Leslie Hogan, Steve Evans, Dick Calandrella, Sytske Campbell. John Sonner.

Citizen's Concerns none

April & May Minutes approved

Paving Surfaces – different types

If for example, a sidewalk was for primarily recreational use, for 9 months, not plowed. Could it be a different surface, less costly? For example, crushed stone, pebbled, pervious, "oil and chip". Discussion of issues of drainage/ washouts, wheelchair use. Seems most appropriate for recreational pathways, vs. high usage.

Update from Engineering

High St.

Engineering has not heard much more from homeowners since last time. Hoping that the stretch of sidewalk from Senior Center to past Valley Rd will be approved by homeowners. Engineering has had ongoing conversations with people who seem to be agreeable to plan. A wall will be designed in Valley Rd area. Maybe monies from Concord can be used toward this. Engineering also looking into wetland area and getting permission to construct a sidewalk there.

Great Rd.

East of Main St is still moving along positively. The State seems to be willing to help and do approvals in a timely way. It is possible this piece could be constructed during this calendar year.

Great Rd

West of Main St - Pulte is working on their road plan now; it is not clear how much of the sidewalk they will construct on Great Rd. Town needs to wait and see how much of sidewalk is left to put out to bid and pay for out of Acton funds designated for this project.

Martin St.

It is next on the list for town to do this spring/early summer. The Gas Company is doing work there now so they need to coordinate with them.

Summer St.

As of now, the town plans to do sidewalk only to Ethan Allen Drive. Still waiting to remove tree and coordinate with NStar on this. This should happen this summer.

Summer St, near Central

A few homeowners are not in agreement yet with sidewalk plan. Engineering is working through this and talking with them to try to work things out. Easement s will be needed so the town cannot do without agreement. This part is not likely to happen this calendar year.

Taylor Road

Conceptual layout is done. Letters will be going out soon to whole street, but Engineering said they would be pleased to be able to construct sidewalk from Main Street to Minot and complete sidewalk to back entrance to Conant School for now.

Summary of electronic communications to the sidewalk committee

Bettina read to us some news and planning information re South Acton Train station. Central Street sidewalk drainage to be repaired, per citizen request to the Highway department.

Sidewalk Funds from Developers – Ryan Bettez (Planning Board)

The wording of our (sidewalk committee) letter re the small 2-house Pope Road development may have implied that not only did the developer not need to include a sidewalk, but also did not need to contribute to the Sidewalk Fund in lieu of the sidewalk. The wording of this letter was not available at this meeting. We did not mean to imply this, and defer to the Planning Board for this determination. In future such communications, we will add something like “but there is a high demand for sidewalks in town, and we recommend a contribution to the sidewalk fund, using the established formula. “

Sidewalk Funds discussion, continued.

We gave Selectman John Sonner the background about our discussion of a stabilization fund for sidewalks. (outlined in last month/May minutes). Does the committee recommend this? Motion: “We suggest to Town Manager that he consider, with appropriate staff, whether or not there should be a stabilization fund for sidewalks”. Seconded. Discussion: Might this cause more problems than it fixes? Give some background to Town Manager with our suggestion. Motion passed 6 in favor, 1 against. Kate will email to Town Manager Steve Ledoux. The

dissenting opinion: we are going around in circles. ► In addition, John will bring this up for discussion at next Monday's Selectmen's meeting.

Safe Routes – Sytske update

A school commits to being a partner of Safe Routes for 1 year. Example projects include Assemblies, walking school buses, Bike Safety program. Systke is seeking a Conant school volunteer, or small committee, to lead this. Systke will invite the program representative and any interested parties from Conant school to July or September meeting to discuss.

Great Road – new development “The Meadows”

Opposite donelan's. ► Leslie ask Corey for more details.

July, August meetings – who will attend? Both meetings should have enough attendance to be viable.

Meeting adjourned 8:35 p.m.
Respectfully, Steve Evans

Open Meeting law requires that the following must be included in the minutes:

- ✓ Date, place, time and matters discussed.
- ✓ Summaries of discussions
- ✓ List of documents used
- ✓ Decisions made
- ✓ Actions taken
- ✓ Record of all votes (yeas, nays and abstentions).
- ✓ A list of all documents and other exhibits, such as photographs, recordings, maps and presentations used by the body at the open or executive session.

Future Meetings Planned: (All at 7pm at the Acton Memorial Library Conference Room, on the second Wednesday of the month)

2012: **July 11** Aug 8 Sep 12 Oct 10 Nov 14 Dec 12